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# Waste haven effect: unwrapping the impact of environmental regulation

Thais Nunez-Rocha

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## Abstract

A new branch of the literature on international trade and environment suggests that developing countries are becoming waste havens for their developed counterparts, due to environmental regulation differences with trade partners. This paper analyses the effectiveness of the Basel Convention formalisation in the European Union (*EU-WSR*), by studying the impact of the *EU-WSR* on hazardous waste trade, first on the less developed EU countries, and then on regions of developing countries. It does so, by means of a gravity model framework applied to a panel data-set. Results show that there is not enough evidence to call for waste haven effect in the less developed EU countries, with both aggregated and disaggregated measures of environmental regulations, but increasing institution efficiency differences could lead to increasing imports of waste. In the regional analysis, there is no evidence of the efficacy of the *EU-WSR*. These findings provide insights into the efficacy of European engagements on waste trade, indicating that there is no simple answer as to its effect.

**Keywords:** Hazardous waste, waste haven effect, international trade, international environmental agreements, difference-in-differences, log-linear and ppml gravity model.

**JEL codes:** F13, F18, Q53, Q56, Q58

# 1 Introduction

The relationship between trade and environment has raised a great deal of interest among economists, despite the fact that simultaneity of the two poses serious empirical challenges, because when trade increases the environmental damage tends to increase as well. Additionally, even if the simultaneity issue is addressed, whether trade has a positive or negative impact on the environment has not emerged consensual answer yet.

A first theoretical puzzle is to assess the environmental impact of trade. Such impact can be decomposed into three main components: the scale effect, due to the increasing magnitude of trade, the technique effect, i.e. the impact that new technologies may have on pollution intensity, and the composition effect, caused by a change in the type of production in place (Grossman and Krueger [1991]). This paper focuses on the latter effect, by controlling for scale and technique effect. Following Copeland and Taylor [2003], the composition effect is broken down into its two driving forces: factor of endowments and environmental regulation differences.

The second puzzle is the challenge that estimating this effect empirically can represent. In general, empirical research concentrates in cross-sectional studies, observing environmental impact of trade through emissions as in Cole and Elliott [2003] Frankel and Rose [2005], Managi et al. [2009] and Baghdadi et al. [2013] or industry location as channel of attraction of possible pollution haven effect (?, Dean et al. [2009]). The literature is much less extensive when it comes to estimate the hazardous waste trade, despite the natural intuition that some negative effect is likely to be found. Exporting hazardous waste to countries with lenient environmental regulation saves the cost from industry relocation, Jug and Mirza [2005] support the fact that environmental regulation has an impact in trade flows. From a policy point of view, this is unfortunate, because waste trade harms the country environmental quality, not even leaving much of an investment, as is the case of the pollution haven effect.

According to Misra and Pandey [2005] hazardous waste, when mishandling in any environmental media may have both short- and long-term effects on both human and environmental systems. Improper treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste can result in contaminant during possible exposures, and potential adverse health and environmental impacts. In the case of this study, even if the flow of hazardous waste shipped from developed to developing countries represents less than 3% of total trade, irresponsible waste management practices can create hazardous conditions and considerable risks to human health. In general, any toxic component can cause severe health consequences, even death if taken by humans in sufficiently large amounts.

Moreover, there are some products considered in the Basel Convention that are of primary

concern because even in small doses, can cause adverse health impacts. Some anecdotal evidence show that irresponsible management of heavy metals included in some devices as in this analyses "Waste and scrap of primary cells, primary batteries and electric articles" are highly toxic even in low doses, specially to those repeatedly exposed to them. Those substances can have effects to the nervous systems, kidneys and other organs. The effects of particular concern are those from lead and mercury on the development of the nervous system in children, other chemicals including some brominated flame retardants can build up in human bodies from repeated exposures and for some there is evidence of long term effects including brain development and the whole immune system, many chemicals in electronic devices are also environmental persistent.<sup>1</sup> There are illegal and legal waste shipments (Bernard [2011]), in the framework of this study due to data-availability only legal shipments are studied.

Among the studies that directly address waste trade, several are based on cross-sectional data and treat the phenomenon as a pollution haven effect, either including capital abundance (Baggs [2009]), or including the analysis of environmental regulation differences between countries (Kellenberg [2012]), also these two papers concentrate in all waste and not only hazardous waste. In order to control for endogenous simultaneity between trade and environment, panel-data offer a better setting; this is in line with Kellenberg and Levinson [2014], although their analysis is not extensive in terms of disentangling the groups of countries or regions being more (or less) affected by this trade, and the composition effect, including the differences in environmental regulation between countries, is not directly investigated.

This article is most closely related to Kellenberg [2012]. Kellenberg [2012] uses cross-sectional data-set from the 2003-2004 and also directly assesses the environmental regulation difference issue. He uses the Global Competitiveness Report, as a proxy of the environmental regulation, this index is based on a report having answers of company executives ranking the enforcement of environmental regulations at country-level. The findings of this paper are that environmental regulation across countries are an important determinant of waste trade in developing countries.

This analysis differs from Kellenberg [2012] in several respects, some are methodological and other are conceptual, but all of them make more accurate results for policy recommendation.

First, in the methodological part the contribution is that this analysis uses panel data-set in order to disentangle the possible simultaneity of the formalisation, which could be a result of countries selecting themselves into the formalisation depending on their volume of waste trade (Baier and Bergstrand [2007]). Also, the environmental regulation index used

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/features/poisoning-the-poor-electroni/>

is a composite index, this index has multiple dimensions in order to assess different features of the environmental regulation (Brunel and Levinson [2013]). It contains information about three complementary indicators as in ?, but in this case, those that are relevant for waste trade are taken. The advantage of using such index is that it captures the solidity of institutions, the actual state of the environmental outcome and the presence of environmental trade barriers. Relevance of institutions to trade has been proven important in Rodriguez and Rodrik [2001] and to pollution in Barrett and Graddy [2000] and in Candau and Dienesch [2015], this is the first study to include institution quality in waste trade analysis. These contributions are discussed in detail in the methodology and results sections.

Second, in the conceptual differences, here only hazardous waste are analyzed due to their polluting potential, and also because non-hazardous waste can also be recycled and used as raw materials. The work of Kellenberg and Levinson [2014] is also on a panel data framework but works with all types of waste, and uses only two groups of countries developed and developing. In this work goes one step forward and explore the waste haven effect both in the less developed EU countries and in developing countries; this separation on different country-group, allows to give more precise conclusions on the determinants in force when waste trade is studied. Finally, developing countries are also separated into regions to see closer the effect in each region.<sup>2</sup>

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the international context on waste trade and some stylized facts. Section 3 describes the empirical strategy. The results are presented in section 4. Section 5 concludes.

## 2 International context on waste

In the late eighties, claims made by developing countries attracted the attention of the International community. Those complaints were mainly addressed by African developing countries, claiming that waste was being illegally disposed in their territories. Their efforts resulted in the Basel Convention on waste trade, which entered into force in 1992. In its early days, the instrument implemented by the convention was the Prior Informed Consent (PIC), a formal mechanism allowing a country to send waste shipments to another country, conditional on the 'prior consent' of the corresponding importing authority.

Some years later, developing countries claimed that waste trade had in fact increased over time (Kellenberg [2012]). This situation led to the implementation of the Basel Ban Amendment in 1995. The Ban Amendment is intended to clearly prohibit shipments

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<sup>2</sup>For a list of countries by region refer to the Appendix section A6.

of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries. Yet, because of the lack of sufficient ratifying members, such instrument is still not in force. The effect of these two instruments, in case of the Basel Convention, have shown no effect (Kellenberg and Levinson [2014]).

However, all the European Union (EU) members signed the Basel Convention and committed to the Ban Amendment. To formalise this commitment, it had then to be written in the official journal of the EU, whence an EU regulation on shipments of waste was created (*EU-WSR*).<sup>3</sup> The formalisation of the Basel Convention in the EU passed in 2006 and it entered into force in 2007. It includes the Ban Amendment, despite the fact that the latter is not in force up to date. Even if European countries were to engage into not sending hazardous waste to developing countries, no legal binding procedure nor enforcing authority exist to settle potential cases of no compliance.

Being restricted to send waste to developing countries, the former and richer EU countries (the *EU-15*<sup>4</sup>) could be tempted to change their waste trading partners to their neighbors, the new arrived and specially less developed countries (*EU-10*<sup>5</sup>), which also have laxer environmental regulations (See Figure 1).

## 2.1 Stylized facts

To see if increased trade was due to *EU-WSR*, I estimate first a simple difference-in-difference regression; results are shown in Table 4 and 5 in appendix. The difference-in-difference estimation is not appropriate to disentangle the effect of environmental regulation as a determinant of waste trade. In order to include differences in environmental regulation and to control for time variant and invariant determinants of trade, these estimations are set up in a gravity model. Nevertheless, is interesting to have a first glance of the effect of this formalisation, the magnitude of the trade in each group of country and also how results change once adding all the controls.

Table 4 shows *EU-10* waste imports coming from the *EU-15* before and after the *EU-WSR*; this is the treatment group. As control group, the waste exports of the *EU-15* to three groups of countries are considered: all countries of the world except the *EU-10*, the OECD non-EU and developing or non-OECD countries. Results vary in magnitude depending on

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<sup>3</sup>Council Regulation. No 1013/2006 of European parliament and of the council of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste. It will be in force from, 12:1-98, 2007.

<sup>4</sup>*EU-15*=Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Suede, United Kingdom

<sup>5</sup>*EU-10*=Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Poland. Bulgaria and Romania not yet obliged to follow this regulation

the group, but in all cases there is an increase in trade, although results are not significant in the difference-in-differences estimator.

In the regional analysis, the treatment groups are the African, Asian and American developing countries whose waste imports are coming from the EU. As control groups, I consider their imports coming from non-EU OECD countries. All of them are studied before and after *EU-WSR*. Table 5 shows the results. A decrease in waste trade is observed in the African and American regions, although the results lose significance in the difference-in-differences estimator. In the case of Asia, the waste trade increases, but results are not significant.

### 3 Empirical strategy

#### 3.1 Data

The key point in evaluating the effectiveness of the *EU-WSR* is to correctly define hazardous waste. To select the appropriate products, I referred to the definition of hazardous waste contained in the text of the Basel Convention "A substance in order to be defined as hazardous waste, it must both be listed and possess a characteristic such as being explosive, flammable, toxic, or corrosive. Also, a product could enter in this category if it is defined as or considered to be a hazardous waste under the laws of either the exporting country, the importing country, or any of the countries of transit".<sup>6</sup>

The data-set used here is a matching process of these two sources of information: the COMTRADE data-set and the Basel Convention data-set, in time period 2003-2010. Due to the PIC the Basel Convention has information about the shipments of waste of countries reported to the importing authority, with the 6-digit HS codes a matching process was done of the shipments in the Basel Convention registers and the COMTRADE data-set. The advantage of such combination is that the number of observations is almost doubled, taking into account possibly mislabeling or irregular shipments.

The type of products selected are those that have disposable waste in their description and/or in their name. Such definition includes industrial waste, municipal waste, waste oils, pharmaceutical waste, organic solvents waste, hydraulic fluids waste, brake fluids and anti freeze fluids waste, chemical products waste, primary cells waste, metal scrap, primary batteries and electric articles waste. For a full list of the products with their 6-digit harmonized system (HS) codes, refer to Table 6 in the appendix.

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<sup>6</sup>This study concentrates only on hazardous waste, the broader definition of waste includes also non hazardous waste which could be recycled and hence become raw material or input of production.



### 3.2 Variables

As explanatory variables, in order to represent the period  $(post)_t$  after the *EU-WSR* and the country-group, a set of dummies is used. The country-groups are listed in Table 1. Moreover, following Kellenberg [2012], a measure of differences in costs is also constructed it helps to control for a matter of specialisation in some countries, due differences in costs rather than in environmental regulation within countries.

| Variable           | Obs   | Mean     | Std. Dev. | Min | Max |
|--------------------|-------|----------|-----------|-----|-----|
| <b>UE15i</b>       | 48048 | .1794872 | .3837637  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>UE10i</b>       | 48048 | .1153846 | .3194889  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>UE15j</b>       | 48048 | .1794872 | .3837637  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>UE10j</b>       | 48048 | .1153846 | .3194889  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>africa_i</b>    | 48048 | .1282051 | .3343216  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>asia_i</b>      | 48048 | .1923077 | .3941176  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>america_i</b>   | 48048 | .2820513 | .4500029  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>africa_j</b>    | 48048 | .1282051 | .3343216  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>asia_j</b>      | 48048 | .1923077 | .3941176  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>america_j</b>   | 48048 | .2820513 | .4500029  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>OCDE</b>        | 48048 | .4230769 | .4940525  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>OCDEP</b>       | 48048 | .4230769 | .4940525  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>oecdnoneu_i</b> | 48048 | .1666667 | .3726819  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>oecdnoeu_j</b>  | 48048 | .1666667 | .3726819  | 0   | 1   |

Table 1: Explained and explanatory variables

The dependent variable is the aggregated waste trade. It has been constructed using total weight imported, aggregated from the 6-digit HS, for the specific products that are subject to the definition of waste mentioned above. Those countries that do not trade certain products for the entire period under study are excluded from the main analysis. Even then, the quantity of zeros in the dependent variable is important.

Imports weight rather than value is used because it makes more sense from an environmental point of view (Kellenberg [2012]) and because, waste being not a regular product, the direction of the payment is not well established. Inside the products considered, there could be some of them that are exported to extract some material e.g. electronic devises, others could be exported just to disposal at lower costs either labor costs or environmental costs, for this reason there is not clear way to know if the value is the payment of importer country or exporter country.

### 3.3 Environmental regulation gradient

Studying hazardous waste imports derives its relevance from the polluting potential of such products. This is particularly true in developing countries, since countries who do not possess the installed capacity of producing products which ensue those waste products or by-products, improbably could manage their treatment or disposal in an environmentally friendly way (Briggs [2003]).<sup>7</sup> If a phenomenon of specialisation is emerging, it should be captured by the costs gradient.

Furthermore, if a waste haven effect exists, developing countries environment and health outcomes could be affected not only by lax environmental regulations in loco, but also by stricter environmental regulations with trading partner countries. Measuring the difference in environmental regulation between countries helps identifying this channel, specifically in the case of waste imports, that cannot be considered as an importing "good", but rather as an environment-harming "bad".

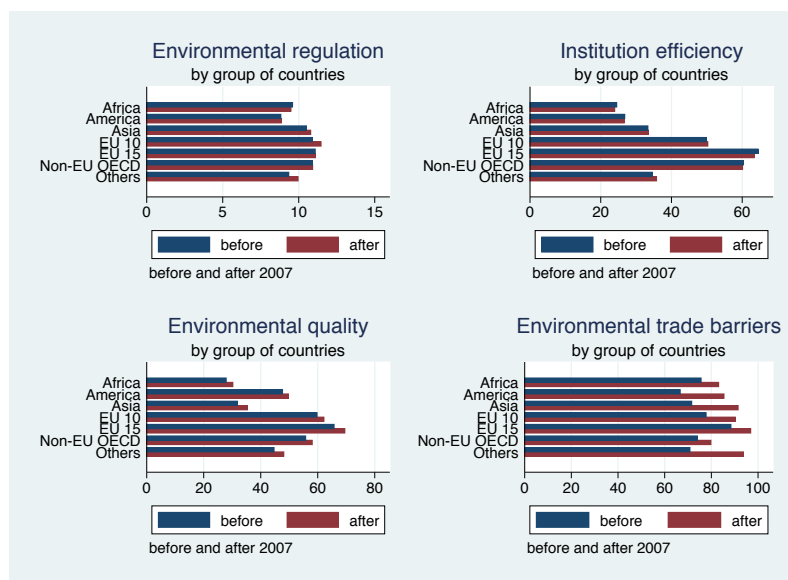


Figure 1: Environmental regulation components

The claims made by developing countries about the increased imports of hazardous waste after the enforcement of the Basel Convention pointed to the fact that institutions could

<sup>7</sup>"Scope of the Chemicals and Waste Subprogramme" (UNEP and Harmful Substances at a glance Division of Technology, Industry and Economics United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Environment House. June 2010), <http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/About/tabid/258/Default.aspx>.

be corrupted. This fact could have lead to increased waste imports or maintained trends in this trade, as underlined by Kellenberg and Levinson [2014].

According to Ben Kheder and Zugravu [2012] and Brunel and Levinson [2013] a composed index of environmental regulation is necessary to measure the multidimensional features of the matter and to capture fundamental aspects such as the institutional efficiency, environmental outcomes and environmental trade barriers. The environmental regulation variable is estimated as an aggregated variable composed of these three indexes; estimations of these three complementary variables are also conducted in a disaggregated form in order to account for their individual effect. Further explanation about each variable is to be found in the appendix.

The environmental regulation gradient (ERG)  $ERG_{ijt} = (E_{jt} - E_{it}) / [(E_{jt} + E_{it}) / 2]$  that captures the differences between countries, is constructed following Kellenberg [2012]. The gradient will increase as the differences in environmental regulation within a couple of countries trading waste increases, either because one country makes his regulation stricter or because the other makes it looser. The construction of the environmental regulation gradient, the normalisation of the three proxy variables and the estimation of the aggregated gradient are detailed in the Appendix A5 .

### 3.4 Model specification

In 2006, the EU parliament approved a regulation intended to ban shipments of hazardous waste to developing countries *EU-WSR*. This regulation is a formalisation of the Basel Convention and of its related Ban Amendment on hazardous waste. Using this information, I construct an indicator variable for bilateral trading pairs where exporting countries are the *EU-15* and importing countries are *EU-10*; this dummy variable is coupled with a period variable, which distinguishes periods before and after 2007, the year in which the regulation entered into force. Finally, the interaction between these two variables and the ERG is considered.

To this difference-in-differences specification is joined gravity model of trade as the workhorse in estimating the effect of policy-based bilateral agreements on bilateral trade flows (Head and Mayer [2014]) and following the most recent developments of the gravity specification (Baier and Bergstrand [2007], Santos Silva [2011]).

An important issue in the estimation of the effects of a policy aimed at changing trade patterns is that potential self-selection of country pairs into more or less trading of the targeted products generates endogeneity bias in the estimates.

In order to deal with this several techniques are adopted; first, to avoid endogeneity bias by incorporating bilateral effects in a log-levels specification, panel data-set methods are used. Second, multilateral resistant factors (MRF), which represent relative-price differences across countries with respect to all their trading partners, are included in the model (Anderson and Van Wincoop [2004]). In a panel data-set framework, since these factors vary over time, they are proxied using time-varying exporter and importer fixed effects, which will capture not only price effects, but also all the unobservable heterogeneity that varies over time for each origin and for each destination. Furthermore, bilateral fixed effects are used to control for time invariant determinants.

One of the main challenges to face when working with empirical trade models is that in estimating a gravity model, the dependent variable often takes the value of zero, which creates problems of convergence in the model. This is especially true with trade in products such as hazardous waste. In order to deal with this drawback, the model is first estimated estimated in a log-linear form; such procedure does not account for the zeros in the dependent variable, because of convergence problems. Nevertheless, to test the robustness of results and deal with the convergence issue, a pseudo-Poisson maximum likelihood (ppml) model (Santos Silva [2011]) is used under different subsets of fixed effects. Further explanation is in robustness subsection.

The empirical form of the gravity model of trade adopted here is due to Anderson and Van Wincoop [2004]; it has a log-linear form given by:

$$\ln M_{ijt} = \ln Y_{it} + \ln Y_{jt} - \ln Y_t^W + (1 - \sigma) \ln t_{ijt} - (1 - \sigma) \ln P_{it} - (1 - \sigma) \ln P_{jt} \quad (1)$$

where  $\ln M_{ijt}$  denotes imports of country  $i$  coming from countries  $j$  in year  $t$ .<sup>8</sup>  $\ln Y_{it}$ ,  $\ln Y_{jt}$  and  $\ln Y_t^W$  represent GDP of country  $i$ , GDP of country  $j$  and GDP of the world, respectively.  $\ln t_{ijt}$ ,  $\ln P_{it}$  and  $\ln P_{jt}$  stand for the so-called MRF and  $\sigma$  is the elasticity of substitution of all goods.

In order to combine the policy impact analysis to the gravity one, Equation 2, rejoins the difference-in-differences estimation and the gravity model. To control for the MRF, a set of  $\theta$  dummy variables is added to the empirical specification of equation 1.

$$\ln M_{ijt} = \beta_0 + \beta_1(ERG)_{ijt} + \beta_2(post)_t + \beta_3(treat)_{ij} + \beta_4(post * treat)_{ijt} +$$

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<sup>8</sup>Imports are used instead of exports, because they are known in the trade literature for being more reliable.

$$\begin{aligned} &\beta_5(ERG * post)_{ijt} + \beta_6(ERG * treat)_{ijt} + \beta_7(ERG * post * treat)_{ijt} + \\ &\beta_8 Costgrad_{ijt} + \theta_{1it} + \theta_{2jt} + \theta_3 FE_{ij} + \theta_{4t} + \mu_{ijt} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

here, the dependent variable  $lnM$  represents the imports of waste in logs,  $(ERG)$  is the environmental regulation gradient,  $(post)$  the period after the *EU-WSR* and  $(treatgroup)$  the country-group. Additionally, the model contains the interactions of the three variables  $(ERG * post * treat)$  and a cost gradient  $(Costgrad)$ . The remaining variables are country-time, time dummy variables, bilateral fixed effects, and an idiosyncratic error term. The coefficient of interest is  $\beta_7$ , which represents the effect of the *EU-WSR* in the specific country-group while taking into account the differences in environmental regulation.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Main results

Estimation results for the flow of imports of the 10 EU countries from the 15 called *EU-10 15* are presented in Table 2. The control country-groups are: the world, the OECD non-EU and the non-OECD countries. The second one would be the best candidate as control group.<sup>9</sup> A cost gradient is used to control for cost differences; the elasticity associated to the latter variable is almost systematically not significant.

The variable, representing the interaction between the difference-in-differences estimator and the environmental regulation, is not significant in its aggregated form, suggesting that for the *EU-10* after 2007 the environmental regulation differences did not have an increasing impact on waste imports. Nevertheless, the total effect of the variable of period  $(ERG * post)_{ijt}$  is negative and significant, suggesting a decrease in waste trade due to environmental regulation differences, that however has not been greater in magnitude than for other OECD non-EU countries.

Decomposing the ERG variable in its three complementary elements, it is observed as a partial effect that environmental trade barriers are positive and significant in all three groups. This suggests that international environmental agreements do not have the effect of stopping trade, but rather of increasing it, or at least of increasing the transparency in shipments records, a fact that was already underlined in the literature on waste trade. This

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<sup>9</sup>Ideally, the best control group would be represented by the OECD non-EU countries that are the least developed or similarly developed as the *EU-10*. But the available data about waste shipments is not sufficient to conduct the estimation and aggravates the zero problem in the dependent variable.

is true not only for the *EU-10* but for all countries considered, this rise the question if that could be the driving variable of the effect in the aggregated analysis of the ERG.

The environmental performance gradient in the world control group and in the OECD NON-EU has negative and significant effect, suggesting a decrease on trade when the EU-15 increase their environmental performance, probably stricter standards also impede waste to leave the country in this case. Complete results are reported in the Appendix.

| OLS EU 10-15  |                             |                            |                            |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| AGGREGATED ERG  |                             |                            |                            |
| VARIABLES   | (1)<br>CG: WORLD            | (2)<br>OECD NON-EU         | (3)<br>Developing NON OECD |
| <b>post</b>   | 141.9<br>(159.3)            | <b>70.88*</b><br>(37.40)   | 16.19<br>(23.53)           |
| <b>Environmental reg. gradient x post</b>                               | -646.1<br>(583.8)           | <b>-3,777**</b><br>(1,690) | -239.9<br>(629.8)          |
| <b>Partial effect Environmental reg. gradient x post</b>                | <b>0,0</b>                  | <b>-3,77</b>               | <b>0,0</b>                 |
| OLS EU 10-15  |                             |                            |                            |
| DISAGGREGATED ERG   |                             |                            |                            |
| VARIABLES   | (1)<br>CG: THE WORLD        | (2)<br>OECD NON-EU         | (3)<br>Developing NON OECD |
| <b>Env. performance gradient x 10-15</b>                                | <b>4.891**</b><br>(2.453)   | 5.168<br>(3.222)           | -4.550<br>(3.829)          |
| <b>Env. perf. grdt. x post x 10-15</b>                                  | <b>-7.402***</b><br>(2.614) | <b>-6.109*</b><br>(3.672)  | -4.787<br>(4.906)          |
| <b>Env. trade barriers gradient x post</b>                              | <b>28.49**</b><br>(12.80)   | <b>37.92**</b><br>(17.02)  | <b>27.80**</b><br>(13.75)  |
| <b>Partial effect Env. performance gradient x 10-15</b>                 | <b>4,891</b>                | <b>0</b>                   | <b>0</b>                   |
| <b>Partial effect Institution efficiency</b>                            | <b>0</b>                    | <b>0</b>                   | <b>0</b>                   |
| <b>Partial effect Env. trade barriers gradient x post</b>               | <b>28,29</b>                | <b>37,92</b>               | <b>27,8</b>                |
| <b>Total effect environmental performance gradient</b>                  | <b>-7,402</b>               | <b>-6,109</b>              | <b>0</b>                   |
| Observations  | 4,045                       | 1,255                      | 2,451                      |
| Number of ij  | 787                         | 230                        | 543                        |
| Time dummy  | YES                         | YES                        | YES                        |
| Country and time dummies  | YES                         | YES                        | YES                        |
| Bilateral FE  | YES                         | YES                        | YES                        |
| Dependent variable  | ln Imports                  | ln Imports                 | ln Imports                 |
| Robust standard errors in parentheses<br>*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1 |                             |                            |                            |

Table 2: Effect of *EU-WSR* on the *EU-10*

Next, regarding the regional analysis. The treatment groups are the flow of imports from African, Asian and American developing countries coming from the EU, and the control groups are flow of imports of the same regions from OECD non-EU countries. Results are displayed in Table 3. There is no global effect, particularly in the aggregated form of the environmental regulation gradient.

In the disaggregated form of the ERG, no effect of the interaction term of the difference-in-differences estimator and the ERG is found in African or Asia region, but there is an increasing effect in the American region. This results challenge the efficacy of the *EU-WSR*, the partial effects are hard to generalize. Those results are valid for the specific region and period, but not distinguishing from the EU and the OECD non-EU countries as exporter countries. Full tables of results are presented in the Appendix.

## 4.2 Robustness

As robustness, first it was estimated the same model using different specifications of ppml models, so as to mitigate the zero problem in the dependent variable. Second, applying the same model to the BACI data-set (Gaulier and Zignago [2010]) to see if the results found are not driven by our data-set.<sup>10</sup>

For the ppml model, some convergence problems emerged. To face them, different sets of fixed effects and dummy variables were used in order the model to converge. In the case of *EU-10* imports, setting the OECD non-EU countries as control group,<sup>11</sup> a decrease of waste trade is perceived as a result of environmental regulation differences. The  $\beta_7$  coefficient is negative and significant in the aggregated form of the ERG and in two of the variables in the disaggregated approach, the environmental performance and the environmental trade barriers, but is positive and significant for the Institution efficiency gradient. We cannot call for a waste haven effect because some decreased trade is observed, but nevertheless, decreasing Institution efficiency in the *EU-10* countries vis-a-vis their *EU-15* can be a possible channel for increased waste imports and to call for a waste haven effect. These results highlight the drawback of the log-linear form in gravity models, that cannot account zero values in the dependent variable, but also raise another question that is interesting that is the difference between the OLS model and the ppml model that in the first we can take into account the quantity of flow of imports and in the second one the decision to import or not plus the quantity traded.

In the case of the regional analysis, the ppml model could only converge for Africa, but without any total effect of environmental regulation in the aggregate form, but a negative significant effect for differences in environmental performances, nevertheless this result is without country-time dummies. For the other two regions Asia there is no effect in the case of the aggregated form of the environmental regulation variable and an increasing waste imports in the disaggregated form due to environmental trade barriers differences. In the case of America region, there is a decreasing effect in the aggregated and disaggregated form

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<sup>10</sup>BACI data-set is the World trade database developed by the CEPII at a high level of product disaggregation. [http://www.cepii.fr/cepii/fr/bdd\\_modele/presentation.asp?id=1](http://www.cepii.fr/cepii/fr/bdd_modele/presentation.asp?id=1)

<sup>11</sup>This control group was the only one that converged with country-time dummies and fixed-effects.

| OLS Developing-EU   |                             |                             |                            |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| AGGREGATED ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION PROXY                     |                             |                             |                            |
| VARIABLES   | Africa-EU                   | Asia-EU                     | America-EU                 |
| Africa/Asia/America - EU dummy                                | <b>-401.7**</b><br>(200.1)  | 0<br>(204.2)                | <b>-87.14**</b><br>(43.69) |
| Environmental reg. gradient                                   | <b>3,536**</b><br>(1,742)   | 1,081<br>(1,323)            | <b>788.2**</b><br>(397.2)  |
| post x Af/As/Am - EU  | <b>327.6*</b><br>(198.4)    | 159.9<br>(200.2)            | <b>72.16*</b><br>(38.14)   |
| Environmental reg. gradient x Af/As/Am - EU                   | 3.773<br>(9.260)            | -3.287<br>(2.966)           | <b>-4.810*</b><br>(2.734)  |
| GDP/capita gradient   | 3.105<br>(5.039)            | <b>-2.212***</b><br>(0.808) | 0.548<br>(1.838)           |
| Partial effect of Africa/Asia/America - EU dummy              | <b>-401,7</b>               | <b>-167,2</b>               | <b>-87,14</b>              |
| Partial effect of environmental reg. gradient                 | <b>3,536</b>                | <b>0</b>                    | <b>788,2</b>               |
| Partial effect of post x Af/As/Am - EU                        | <b>327,6</b>                | <b>0</b>                    | <b>72,16</b>               |
| Partial effect of environmental reg. gradient x Af/As/Am - EU | <b>0</b>                    | <b>0</b>                    | <b>-4,81</b>               |
| OLS Developing-EU   |                             |                             |                            |
| DISAGGREGATED ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION PROXY                  |                             |                             |                            |
| VARIABLES   | Africa-EU                   | Asia-EU                     | America-EU                 |
| post  | 15.23<br>(34.08)            | <b>-55.31***</b><br>(16.35) | 3.514<br>(25.26)           |
| Af/As/Am dummy  | <b>-19.74**</b><br>(9.936)  | <b>-26.94***</b><br>(8.928) | <b>19.08*</b><br>(9.751)   |
| Env. performance gradient                                     | <b>16.11***</b><br>(4.758)  | <b>-3.548**</b><br>(1.484)  | 14.51<br>(18.26)           |
| Env. performance gradient x post                              | <b>-13.71**</b><br>(5.922)  | 2.657<br>(1.765)            | 18.91<br>(19.01)           |
| Institution efficiency gradient x post                        | -7.985<br>(17.07)           | <b>-25.56**</b><br>(10.25)  | 9.374<br>(10.54)           |
| Env. trade barriers gradient                                  | <b>-43.43***</b><br>(13.24) | <b>18.17**</b><br>(7.114)   | -6.334<br>(8.494)          |
| Env. trade barriers gradient x post                           | <b>48.76**</b><br>(23.81)   | <b>-20.01*</b><br>(11.26)   | -15.55<br>(10.96)          |
| Env. trade barriers grdt. x post x Af/As/Am                   | 0.509<br>(3.196)            | 0.925<br>(1.691)            | <b>4.514***</b><br>(1.720) |
| GDP/capita gradient   | 4.633<br>(4.891)            | -1.013<br>(0.848)           | 0.286<br>(2.067)           |
| Total effect Env. trade barriers                              | <b>0</b>                    | <b>0</b>                    | <b>4,514</b>               |
| Observations  | 593                         | 1,847                       | 1,165                      |
| Number of ij  | 164                         | 348                         | 316                        |
| Time dummy  | YES                         | YES                         | YES                        |
| Country and time dummies                                      | YES                         | YES                         | YES                        |
| Bilateral FE  | YES                         | YES                         | YES                        |
| Dependent variable  | ln Imports                  | ln Imports                  | ln Imports                 |
| Robust standard errors in parentheses                         |                             |                             |                            |
| *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1                                |                             |                             |                            |

Table 3: Impact of *EU-WSR* on developing countries



of the environmental regulation, in the disaggregated due to environmental performance differences. Nevertheless, there no country-time dummies were used due to convergence problems, so these two last results are to be taken cautiously. Summary of the results are displayed in Table A14 Table:16 in the Appendix, while full results are available upon request.

Replicating the same estimations with the BACI data-set, it is observed that BACI data-set has much less observations then the data-set used in the benchmark model, which is a matching of the World trade data-set and the Basel Convention records. In the case of *EU-10 15* it is observed a decrease of waste imports, which is also confirm in the disaggregated analysis, due to institution efficiency differences and environmental trade barriers. The drawback is that these results cannot be separated from EU or OECD non-EU countries.

For the regional analysis however what attracts the attention, is the result for Africa region with an increase of waste trade in the aggregated form of the variable, nevertheless results are not maintained with the disaggregated analysis of the ERG, with the BACI data-set. These contradictory results could be due to a mismatch between information reported by countries to the Basel Convention and to the world trade organisation. Main results are in A14 Table:14 in the Appendix.<sup>12</sup>

The consideration of all models estimated suggests that we cannot call for a Waste Haven Effect for the less developed countries of the EU, nevertheless, when we take into account the decision of importing or not waste and the quantity imported we observe that increasing differences of those countries with respect with the more developed countries of the EU increases imports of waste after the *EU-WSR*. In the case of developing countries analyzed by regions there is no evidence to call for the efficacy of the *EU-WSR* which is in line with the literature Kellenberg [2012].

## 5 Conclusions

Differences in environmental regulation can be drivers for transboundary movements of pollutants, in this paper its showed robust evidence about decreasing flows of waste in the less developed countries of the EU, as a consequence of the *EU-WSR*. Nevertheless, these results also highlight that there is an increased flow of waste when analysing institution efficiency differences.

Results contribute to the literature by providing evidence in a more precise way about haz-

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<sup>12</sup>Full results are available upon request.

ardous waste trade. The effect of the European engagements as with the *EU-WSR* could be positive for the EU zone, but there is no effect for developing countries. And including also the *EU-10* as the receivers of hazardous waste, besides the so-called developing countries, as previous works pointed out.

Additionally, showing that using a disaggregated form of the ERG helps studying the different features of the ERG in a more detailed manner. Similarly, the regional separation contributes to observe differences in waste imports across groups of developing countries.

The aftermath is that differences in environmental regulations are not only a concern for developing countries, but to all countries exposed to a gap in regulation with regard to the trading partners. Nevertheless, results conduct to believe that reinforced institutions are likely to be effective in inverting this trend.

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# Appendix

## A1

| <i>EU-10</i> WASTE IMPORTS  |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
|---|------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|---------|------------|--------------|
| THE NEW EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS TREATMENT GROUP<br>BASEL CONVENTION FORMALISATION |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| CONTROL GROUP THE WORLD   |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| Number of observations in the DIFF-IN-DIFF: 8624                                |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
|   | Baseline         | Follow-up |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| Control:  | 3808             | 3808      | 7616         |            |            |         |            |              |
| Treated:  | 504              | 504       | 1008         |            |            |         |            |              |
|   | 4312             | 4312      | <b>8624</b>  |            |            |         |            |              |
| R-square: 0.0013  |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| DIFFERENCE IN DIFFERENCES ESTIMATION  |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| Imports   | Outcome Variable | BASE LINE |              |            | FOLLOW UP  |         |            | DIFF-IN-DIFF |
|   |                  | Control   | Treated      | Diff(BL)   | Control    | Treated | Diff(FU)   |              |
| P>t   |                  | 5 700 000 | 240 000      | -5 500 000 | 6 000 000  | 850 000 | -5 100 000 | 390 000      |
|   |                  | 0.000     | 0.908        | 0.013**    | 0.000      | 0.683   | 0.021**    | 0.901        |
| CONTROL GROUP OECD NON-EU   |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| Number of observations in the DIFF-IN-DIFF: 18200                               |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
|   | Baseline         | Follow-up |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| Control:  | 8596             | 8596      | 17192        |            |            |         |            |              |
| Treated:  | 504              | 504       | 1008         |            |            |         |            |              |
|   | 9100             | 9100      | <b>18200</b> |            |            |         |            |              |
| R-square: 0.0003  |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| DIFFERENCE IN DIFFERENCES ESTIMATION  |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| Imports   | Outcome Variable | BASE LINE |              |            | FOLLOW UP  |         |            | DIFF-IN-DIFF |
|   |                  | Control   | Treated      | Diff(BL)   | Control    | Treated | Diff(FU)   |              |
| P>t   |                  | 3 000 000 | 240 000      | -2 700 000 | 3 300 000  | 850 000 | -2 400 000 | 300 000      |
|   |                  | 0.000     | 0.871        | 0.073*     | 0.000      | 0.565   | 0.111      | 0.888        |
| CONTROL GROUP NON OECD  |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| Number of observations in the DIFF-IN-DIFF: 37856                               |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
|   | Baseline         | Follow-up |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| Control:  | 18424            | 18424     | 36848        |            |            |         |            |              |
| Treated:  | 504              | 504       | 1008         |            |            |         |            |              |
|   | 18928            | 18928     | <b>37856</b> |            |            |         |            |              |
| R-square: 0.0001  |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| DIFFERENCE IN DIFFERENCES ESTIMATION  |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |
| Imports   | Outcome Variable | BASE LINE |              |            | FOLLOW UP  |         |            | DIFF-IN-DIFF |
|   |                  | Control   | Treated      | Diff(BL)   | Control    | Treated | Diff(FU)   |              |
| P>t   |                  | 2 200 000 | 240 000      | -1 900 000 | 23 000 000 | 850 000 | -1 500 000 | 470 000      |
|   |                  | 0.000     | 0.880        | 0.231      | 0.000      | 0.592   | 0.366      | 0.836        |
| *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1  |                  |           |              |            |            |         |            |              |

Table 4: Imports of *EU-10* Difference-in-difference estimation.

## A2

| DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REGIONAL EFFECTS                          |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
|--|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| TREATMENT GROUP AFRICA   |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| BASEL CONVENTION FORMALISATION                                 |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| CONTROL GROUP AFRICAN IMPORTS FROM NON EUROPEAN OECD COUNTRIES |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| Number of observations in the DIFF-IN-DIFF: 23848              |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
|  | Baseline         | Follow-up |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| Control:   | 10964            | 10964     | 21928     |            |           |           |            |              |
| Treated:   | 960              | 960       | 1920      |            |           |           |            |              |
|  | 11924            | 11924     | 23848     |            |           |           |            |              |
| R-square: 0.0005   |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| DIFFERENCE IN DIFFERENCES ESTIMATION                           |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| Imports  | Outcome Variable | BASE LINE |           |            | FOLLOW UP |           |            | DIFF-IN-DIFF |
|  |                  | Control   | Treated   | Diff(BL)   | Control   | Treated   | Diff(FU)   |              |
| P>t  |                  | 3 600 000 | 59 000    | -3 500 000 | 3 900 000 | 120 000   | -3 700 000 | -230 000     |
|  |                  | 0.000     | 0.967     | 0.019**    | 0.000     | 0.935     | 0.013**    | 0.915        |
| TREATMENT GROUP ASIA   |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| BASEL CONVENTION FORMALISATION                                 |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| CONTROL GROUP AFRICAN IMPORTS FROM NON EUROPEAN OECD COUNTRIES |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| Number of observations in the DIFF-IN-DIFF: 25640              |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
|  | Baseline         | Follow-up |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| Control:   | 11380            | 11380     | 22760     |            |           |           |            |              |
| Treated:   | 1440             | 1440      | 2880      |            |           |           |            |              |
|  | 12820            | 12820     | 25640     |            |           |           |            |              |
| R-square: 0.0001   |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| DIFFERENCE IN DIFFERENCES ESTIMATION                           |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| Imports  | Outcome Variable | BASE LINE |           |            | FOLLOW UP |           |            | DIFF-IN-DIFF |
|  |                  | Control   | Treated   | Diff(BL)   | Control   | Treated   | Diff(FU)   |              |
| P>t  |                  | 3 200 000 | 3 000 000 | -290 000   | 3 400 000 | 5 300 000 | 1 900 000  | 2 200 000    |
|  |                  | 0.000     | 0.010     | 0.813      | 0.000     | 0.000     | 0.123      | 0.209        |
| TREATMENT GROUP AMERICA  |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| BASEL CONVENTION FORMALISATION                                 |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| CONTROL GROUP AFRICAN IMPORTS FROM NON EUROPEAN OECD COUNTRIES |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| Number of observations in the DIFF-IN-DIFF: 28104              |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
|  | Baseline         | Follow-up |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| Control:   | 11940            | 11940     | 23880     |            |           |           |            |              |
| Treated:   | 2112             | 2112      | 4224      |            |           |           |            |              |
|  | 14052            | 14052     | 28104     |            |           |           |            |              |
| R-square: 0.0001   |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| DIFFERENCE IN DIFFERENCES ESTIMATION                           |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |
| Imports  | Outcome Variable | BASE LINE |           |            | FOLLOW UP |           |            | DIFF-IN-DIFF |
|  |                  | Control   | Treated   | Diff(BL)   | Control   | Treated   | Diff(FU)   |              |
| P>t  |                  | 3 300 000 | 61 000    | -3 200 000 | 3 500 000 | 39 000    | -3 500 000 | -270 000     |
|  |                  | 0.000     | 0.880     | 0.001***   | 0.000     | 0.965     | 0.000***   | 0.846        |
| *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1                                 |                  |           |           |            |           |           |            |              |

Table 5: Imports of Developing countries by region Difference-in-difference estimation.

| Codes HS6 of products considered as waste |  |
|---|--|
| 251720                                    | Macadam of slag/dross/similar industrial waste.  |
| 262110                                    | Ash & residues from the incineration of municipal waste                                  |
| 271091                                    | Waste oils containing polychlorinated biphenyls, terphenyls, biphenyls.                  |
| 271099                                    | Waste oils other than those containing polychlorinated biphenyls, terphenyls, biphenyls. |
| 300680                                    | Waste pharmaceuticals  |
| 300692                                    | Waste pharmaceuticals  |
| 382510                                    | Municipal waste  |
| 382530                                    | Clinical waste   |
| 382541                                    | Halogenated waste organic solvents   |
| 382549                                    | Waste organic solvents other than halogenated waste organic solvents                     |
| 382550                                    | Waste of metal pickling liquors, hydraulic fluids, brake fluids & anti-freeze fluids     |
| 382561                                    | Miscellaneous chemical products, mainly containing organic constituents                  |
| 382569                                    | Miscellaneous chemical products, allied industries, n.e.s. In Ch 38                      |
| 382590                                    | Residual products of the chem/allied industries, n.e.s. In Ch 38                         |
| 391530                                    | Waste, parings and scrap, of polymers of vinyl chloride                                  |
| 711230                                    | Waste and scrap of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal                   |
| 740400                                    | Copper waste and scrap   |
| 780200                                    | Lead waste and scrap   |
| 790200                                    | Zinc waste and scrap   |
| 810730                                    | Cadmium waste and scrap  |
| 811020                                    | Antimony waste and scrap   |
| 811213                                    | Beryllium waste and scrap  |
| 811222                                    | Chromium waste and scrap   |
| 854810                                    | Waste and scrap of primary cells, primary batteries and electric art.                    |

Table 6: Hazardous waste products with HS6 codes.

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**Environmental Performance Index**

***Environmental Trade Barriers:***

Source: InforMEA: United Nations

Dummy of ratification of:

Basel : Waste including hazardous waste

Rotterdam : Hazardous chemicals

Stockholm : Persistent Organic Pollutants

***Institution Efficiency:***

Source: The Worldwide Governance Indicators project

Government Effectiveness

Regulatory Quality

Rule of Law

Control of Corruption

***Environmental Quality:***

Source: Environmental Performance Index: Yale University

Environmental burden of disease, Air pollution and Water

Biodiversity, Habitat, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Climate Change

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Table 7: Environmental regulation components



## A5

### Environmental regulation gradient

The environmental regulation gradient was constructed inspired by Ben Kheder and Zuvgravu [2012]. Only that in this case were chosen other complementary proxies of environmental regulation, because those are more suitable to study trade on waste. The proxies are: environmental trade barriers, institution efficiency and environmental quality.

#### *Environmental trade barriers*

Environmental trade barriers proxy is composed of treaties ratified by countries. This variable captures the ease of a country to trade dangerous substances. In this case not all ratification of treaties are used, in order to be more specific, only ratification of treaties that could affect trade in waste are taken into account.

The treaties are Basel convention (on waste and hazardous waste), Stockholm convention (on persistent organic pollutants) and Rotterdam convention (on hazardous chemicals). The information about the members, by convention, can be found in the United Nations platform InforMEA.<sup>13</sup>

#### *Institution efficiency*

Institution efficiency proxy is a variable that captures the institutional solidity of a country. Four variables about institutional efficiency are used to construct this variable: government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law and control of corruption.

Those variables are corruption perception indexes and were chosen from the Worldwide Governance Indicators project.<sup>14</sup>

#### *Environmental quality*

Environmental quality proxy is the variable that measures the actual outcomes of the environment, at a country-level.

This variable ranks countries' performance on environmental issues having two scopes: protection of human health and protection of ecosystems.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup><http://www.informea.org/fr>

<sup>14</sup><http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspxhome>

<sup>15</sup><http://epi.yale.edu/>

The time dimension is also taken into account in the three variables. First step, is the aggregation of the components of each variable, this is done as Ben Kheder and Zugravu [2012], doing an average of the variables. Second step, is the normalisation of these three variables. Once they are normalised, it is possible to construct the gradient according to Kellenberg [2012].

For the aggregated index, a regression of the log of waste imports is estimated. Using as explanatory variables, all the components of the three proxies. First, for country  $i$  and then for country  $j$ .

Then the predicted values  $\hat{Y}_{it}$  and  $\hat{Y}_{jt}$  are extracted, this procedure allows to have the part of waste trade that could have been explained by environmental regulation reasons. Then these values are used to construct the gradient. Analogously, as in the case of the disaggregated index, the time dimension is also taken into account, as data-set in a dynamic panel.

$$ERG_{ijt} = (\hat{Y}_{jt} - \hat{Y}_{it}) / [(\hat{Y}_{jt} + \hat{Y}_{it}) / 2]$$

| DEVELOPING COUNTRIES |                     |             |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Africa               | America             | Asia        |
| Egypt                | Argentina           | Bangladesh  |
| Kenya                | Bolivia             | China       |
| Morocco              | Brazil              | India       |
| Mozambique           | Colombia            | Indonesia   |
| Nigeria              | Costa Rica          | Jordan      |
| Senegal              | Dominican Republic  | Malaysia    |
| South Africa         | Ecuador             | Pakistan    |
| Tunisia              | El Salvador         | Philippines |
| Zambia               | Guatemala           | Singapore   |
| Zimbabwe             | Honduras            | Sri Lanka   |
|                      | Jamaica             | Thailand    |
|                      | Nicaragua           |             |
|                      | Panama              |             |
|                      | Paraguay            |             |
|                      | Peru                |             |
|                      | Trinidad and Tobago |             |
|                      | Uruguay             |             |
|                      | Venezuela           |             |

Table 8: Countries by region

# A7

| OLS EU 10-15                              |                   |                            |                            |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| AGGREGATED ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION PROXY |                   |                            |                            |
| VARIABLES                                 | (1)<br>CG: WORLD  | (2)<br>OECD NON-EU         | (3)<br>Developing NON OECD |
| post                                      | 141.9<br>(159.3)  | <b>70.88*</b><br>(37.40)   | 16.19<br>(23.53)           |
| 10-15 dummy                               | -3.054<br>(13.45) | 36.13<br>(191.3)           | 24.21<br>(116.3)           |
| Environmental reg. gradient               | 78.64<br>(433.2)  | 193.8<br>(1,368)           | 54.97<br>(482.4)           |
| post x 10-15                              | -141.0<br>(114.6) | -486.8<br>(450.9)          | -81.26<br>(192.4)          |
| Environmental reg. gradient x post        | -646.1<br>(583.8) | <b>-3,777**</b><br>(1,690) | -239.9<br>(629.8)          |
| Environmental reg. gradient x 10-15       | 3.244<br>(7.150)  | 6.284<br>(9.709)           | 12.18<br>(12.54)           |
| Env. reg. grdt. x post x 10-15            | 0.481<br>(7.246)  | -0.679<br>(9.612)          | 10.41<br>(17.23)           |
| GDP/capita gradient                       | 1.696<br>(1.388)  | 0.833<br>(5.788)           | 1.080<br>(1.592)           |
| rta                                       | 20.32<br>(60.96)  | 50.94<br>(102.4)           | 16.17<br>(67.81)           |
| wto                                       | 15.61<br>(67.81)  | 39.55<br>(36.50)           | 53.27<br>(182.9)           |
| Partial effect                            | <b>0,0</b>        | <b>-3,77</b>               | <b>0,0</b>                 |
| Observations                              | 4,045             | 1,255                      | 2,451                      |
| Number of ij                              | 787               | 230                        | 543                        |
| Time dummy                                | YES               | YES                        | YES                        |
| Country and time dummies                  | YES               | YES                        | YES                        |
| Bilateral FE                              | YES               | YES                        | YES                        |
| Dependent variable                        | ln Imports        | ln Imports                 | ln Imports                 |
| Robust standard errors in parentheses     |                   |                            |                            |
| *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1            |                   |                            |                            |

Table 9: Full results aggregated

| OLS EU 10-15                                       |                             |                           |                            |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| DISAGGREGATED ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION PROXY       |                             |                           |                            |
| VARIABLES  | (1)<br>CG: THE WORLD        | (2)<br>OECD NON-EU        | (3)<br>Developing NON OECD |
| post   | -6.330<br>(12.14)           | -133.7<br>(82.30)         | -19.05<br>(33.28)          |
| 10-15 dummy  | 6.529<br>(18.65)            | -17.37<br>(21.47)         | <b>15.84**</b><br>(6.727)  |
| post x 10-15                                       | -2.169<br>(16.38)           | 46.40<br>(46.11)          | -16.95<br>(10.57)          |
| Env. performance gradient                          | -1.656<br>(2.792)           | 24.71<br>(21.88)          | -3.330<br>(2.928)          |
| Env. performance gradient x 10-15                  | <b>4.891**</b><br>(2.453)   | 5.168<br>(3.222)          | -4.550<br>(3.829)          |
| Env. performance gradient x post                   | 3.322<br>(2.886)            | 3.180<br>(28.57)          | 3.189<br>(3.219)           |
| Env. perf. grdt. x post x 10-15                    | <b>-7.402***</b><br>(2.614) | <b>-6.109*</b><br>(3.672) | -4.787<br>(4.906)          |
| Institution efficiency gradient                    | 2.598<br>(7.202)            | 30.76<br>(67.26)          | 0.147<br>(7.761)           |
| Institution efficiency gradient x 10-15            | 2.147<br>(2.486)            | 2.042<br>(3.601)          | 1.405<br>(3.335)           |
| Institution efficiency gradient x post             | -4.930<br>(7.189)           | 21.11<br>(56.34)          | -5.637<br>(8.315)          |
| Institution efficiency grdt. x post x 10-15        | -2.132<br>(2.684)           | -2.867<br>(3.642)         | -1.335<br>(4.622)          |
| Env. trade barriers gradient                       | -3.739<br>(7.017)           | -3.028<br>(8.770)         | -5.909<br>(7.593)          |
| Env. trade barriers gradient x 10-15               | 1.252<br>(1.321)            | 1.482<br>(1.611)          | -0.598<br>(2.314)          |
| Env. trade barriers gradient x post                | <b>28.49**</b><br>(12.80)   | <b>37.92**</b><br>(17.02) | <b>27.80**</b><br>(13.75)  |
| Env. trade barriers grdt. x post x 10-15           | -3.672<br>(3.310)           | -3.839<br>(5.118)         | -7.000<br>(5.855)          |
| GDP/capita gradient                                | 1.732<br>(1.638)            | -0.218<br>(7.349)         | 1.503<br>(1.844)           |
| rta  | -3.393<br>(10.37)           | -62.23<br>(50.62)         | 24.12<br>(35.46)           |
| wto  | -2.939<br>(9.551)           | -3.319<br>(6.100)         | 18.15<br>(19.06)           |
| Partial effect Env. performance gradient x 10-15   | <b>4,891</b>                | <b>0</b>                  | <b>0</b>                   |
| Partial effect Institution efficiency              | <b>0</b>                    | <b>0</b>                  | <b>0</b>                   |
| Partial effect Env. trade barriers gradient x post | <b>28,29</b>                | <b>37,92</b>              | <b>27,8</b>                |
| Total effect environmental performance gradient    | <b>-7,402</b>               | <b>-6,109</b>             | <b>0</b>                   |
| Observations                                       | 4,045                       | 1,255                     | 2,451                      |
| Number of ij                                       | 787                         | 230                       | 543                        |
| Time dummy   | YES                         | YES                       | YES                        |
| Country and time dummies                           | YES                         | YES                       | YES                        |
| Bilateral FE                                       | YES                         | YES                       | YES                        |
| Dependent variable                                 | ln Imports                  | ln Imports                | ln Imports                 |
| df,m   | 624                         | 233                       | 464                        |
| Robust standard errors in parentheses              |                             |                           |                            |
| *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1                     |                             |                           |                            |

Table 10: Full results disaggregated

| OLS Developing-EU   |                            |                             |                            |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| AGGREGATED ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION PROXY                     |                            |                             |                            |
| VARIABLES   | Africa-EU                  | Asia-EU                     | America-EU                 |
| post  | 61.18<br>(356.6)           | 51.72<br>(65.72)            | 17.72<br>(88.86)           |
| Africa/Asia/America - EU dummy                                | <b>-401.7**</b><br>(200.1) | -167.2<br>(204.2)           | <b>-87.14**</b><br>(43.69) |
| Environmental reg. gradient                                   | <b>3,536**</b><br>(1,742)  | 1,081<br>(1,323)            | <b>788.2**</b><br>(397.2)  |
| post x Af/As/Am - EU  | <b>327.6*</b><br>(198.4)   | 159.9<br>(200.2)            | <b>72.16*</b><br>(38.14)   |
| Environmental reg. gradient x post                            | -2,644<br>(1,787)          | -984.2<br>(1,615)           | -268.7<br>(710.3)          |
| Environmental reg. gradient x Af/As/Am - EU                   | 3.773<br>(9.260)           | -3.287<br>(2.966)           | <b>-4.810*</b><br>(2.734)  |
| Env. reg. grdt. x post x Af/As/Am - EU                        | -3.521<br>(8.519)          | 1.722<br>(3.636)            | 3.331<br>(3.213)           |
| GDP/capita gradient   | 3.105<br>(5.039)           | <b>-2.212***</b><br>(0.808) | 0.548<br>(1.838)           |
| rta   | 0.784<br>(1.272)           | 1.245**<br>(0.596)          | 0.250<br>(0.483)           |
| wto   | -109.8*<br>(56.74)         | -21.24<br>(33.41)           | <b>-37.11**</b><br>(18.89) |
| Partial effect of Africa/Asia/America - EU dummy              | <b>-401,7</b>              | <b>0</b>                    | <b>-87,14</b>              |
| Partial effect of environmental reg. gradient                 | <b>3,536</b>               | <b>0</b>                    | <b>788,2</b>               |
| Partial effect of post x Af/As/Am - EU                        | <b>327,6</b>               | <b>0</b>                    | <b>72,16</b>               |
| Partial effect of environmental reg. gradient x Af/As/Am - EU | <b>0</b>                   | <b>0</b>                    | <b>-4,81</b>               |
| Observations  | 593                        | 1,847                       | 1,165                      |
| Number of ij  | 164                        | 348                         | 316                        |
| Time dummy  | YES                        | YES                         | YES                        |
| Country and time dummies                                      | YES                        | YES                         | YES                        |
| Bilateral FE  | YES                        | YES                         | YES                        |
| Dependent variable  | ln Imports                 | ln Imports                  | ln Imports                 |
| df.m  | 142                        | 343                         | 306                        |
| Robust standard errors in parentheses                         |                            |                             |                            |
| *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1                                |                            |                             |                            |

Table 11: Full results aggregated

| OLS Developing-EU   |                             |                             |                            |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| DISAGGREGATED ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION PROXY                            |                             |                             |                            |
| VARIABLES   | Africa-EU                   | Asia-EU                     | America-EU                 |
| post  | 15.23<br>(34.08)            | <b>-55.31***</b><br>(16.35) | 3.514<br>(25.26)           |
| Af/As/Am dummy  | <b>-19.74**</b><br>(9.936)  | <b>-26.94***</b><br>(8.928) | <b>19.08*</b><br>(9.751)   |
| post x Af/As/Am   | 21.82*<br>(11.76)           | 42.97***<br>(12.21)         | -15.93<br>(11.47)          |
| Env. performance gradient   | <b>16.11***</b><br>(4.758)  | <b>-3.548**</b><br>(1.484)  | 14.51<br>(18.26)           |
| Env. performance gradient x Af/As/Am                                    | -1.840<br>(1.641)           | 0.675<br>(0.561)            | -2.665<br>(1.637)          |
| Env. performance gradient x post  | <b>-13.71**</b><br>(5.922)  | 2.657<br>(1.765)            | 18.91<br>(19.01)           |
| Env. perf. grdt. x post x Af/As/Am                                      | 0.422<br>(1.656)            | 0.534<br>(0.514)            | -0.932<br>(1.806)          |
| Institution efficiency gradient   | -0.375<br>(18.65)           | -1.364<br>(5.551)           | -5.344<br>(9.445)          |
| Institution efficiency gradient x Af/As/Am                              | -3.551<br>(2.378)           | -0.892<br>(0.872)           | -0.0677<br>(1.365)         |
| Institution efficiency gradient x post                                  | -7.985<br>(17.07)           | <b>-25.56**</b><br>(10.25)  | 9.374<br>(10.54)           |
| Institution efficiency grdt. x post x Af/As/Am                          | 3.336<br>(2.159)            | -0.0997<br>(1.059)          | -0.698<br>(1.249)          |
| Env. trade barriers gradient  | <b>-43.43***</b><br>(13.24) | <b>18.17**</b><br>(7.114)   | -6.334<br>(8.494)          |
| Env. trade barriers gradient x Af/As/Am                                 | -0.357<br>(2.839)           | -0.265<br>(1.138)           | -0.685<br>(1.162)          |
| Env. trade barriers gradient x post                                     | <b>48.76**</b><br>(23.81)   | <b>-20.01*</b><br>(11.26)   | -15.55<br>(10.96)          |
| Env. trade barriers grdt. x post x Af/As/Am                             | 0.509<br>(3.196)            | 0.925<br>(1.691)            | <b>4.514***</b><br>(1.720) |
| GDP/capita gradient   | 4.633<br>(4.891)            | -1.013<br>(0.848)           | 0.286<br>(2.067)           |
| rta   | 1.107<br>(1.568)            | 1.009*<br>(0.609)           | 0.691<br>(0.743)           |
| wto   | -16.78**<br>(8.412)         | 17.93***<br>(5.020)         | 2.031<br>(9.921)           |
| Total effect Env. trade barriers  | <b>0</b>                    | <b>0</b>                    | <b>4,514</b>               |
| Observations  | 593                         | 1,847                       | 1,165                      |
| Number of ij  | 164                         | 348                         | 316                        |
| Time dummy  | YES                         | YES                         | YES                        |
| Country and time dummies  | YES                         | YES                         | YES                        |
| Bilateral FE  | YES                         | YES                         | YES                        |
| Dependent variable  | ln Imports                  | ln Imports                  | ln Imports                 |
| Robust standard errors in parentheses<br>*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1 |                             |                             |                            |

Table 12: Full results disaggregated

Table 13: EU-10 15 BACI



| OLS Developing-EU BACI                      |  | OLS Developing-EU BACI                            |                            |                            |
|---|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| AGGREGATED ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION PROXY   |  | DISAGGREGATED ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION PROXY      |                            |                            |
| VARIABLES                                   |  | Africa-EU   | Asia-EU                    | America-EU                 |
| post  |  | <b>-2.257*</b><br>(1.525)                         | 169.9<br>(263.6)           | -120.3<br>(130.0)          |
| Africa/Asia/America - EU dummy              |  | <b>-23.49*</b><br>(9.85)                          | <b>-23.49*</b><br>(9.85)   | <b>-23.49*</b><br>(9.85)   |
| Environmental reg. gradient                 |  | <b>-11.752*</b><br>(29.33)                        | -2.686<br>(1.17)           | 169.4<br>(60.4)            |
| post x Af/As/Am - EU                        |  | (6.011)   | (1.739)                    | (60.3)                     |
| post x Af/As/Am - EU                        |  | 31.06<br>(68.07)                                  | -270.8<br>(186.0)          | -9.70<br>(26.90)           |
| Environmental reg. gradient x post          |  | <b>12.353*</b><br>(7.002)                         | <b>4.830*</b><br>(2.189)   | 713.6<br>(78.2)            |
| Environmental reg. gradient x Af/As/Am - EU |  | <b>-37.12***</b><br>(14.05)                       | -3.210<br>(3.350)          | -3.913<br>(5.583)          |
| Env. reg. grdt. x post x Af/As/Am - EU      |  | <b>30.98**</b><br>(13.18)                         | -0.271<br>(3.501)          | -0.434<br>(3.682)          |
| GDP/capita gradient                         |  | -0.262<br>(3.872)                                 | <b>-1.844**</b><br>(0.815) | 1.247<br>(2.004)           |
| Total effect                                |  | <b>30.98</b>                                      | <b>0</b>                   | <b>0</b>                   |
| Observations                                |  | 321   | 954                        | 693                        |
| Number of ij                                |  | 106   | 345                        | 178                        |
| Time dummy                                  |  | YES   | YES                        | YES                        |
| Country and time dummies                    |  | YES   | YES                        | YES                        |
| Bilateral FE                                |  | YES   | YES                        | YES                        |
| Dependent variable                          |  | In Imports  | In Imports                 | In Imports                 |
| Robust standard errors in parentheses       |  |   |                            |                            |
| *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1              |  |   |                            |                            |
|   |  | Africa-EU   | Asia-EU                    | America-EU                 |
|   |  | -15.82<br>(32.43)                                 | <b>16.03*</b><br>(9.156)   | <b>-83.18**</b><br>(35.45) |
|   |  | -1.814<br>(2.051)                                 | <b>-13.25**</b><br>(5.11)  | -2.61<br>(3.41)            |
|   |  | -0.985<br>(1.113)                                 | <b>-13.25**</b><br>(5.11)  | 69.95<br>(59.54)           |
|   |  | 5.386<br>(6.111)                                  | -1.814<br>(1.216)          | 11.39<br>(26.37)           |
|   |  | Env. performance gradient                         | <b>0.744**</b><br>(0.282)  | <b>-4.999**</b><br>(2.319) |
|   |  | Env. performance gradient x Af/As/Am              | 0.052<br>(1.346)           | <b>68.68**</b><br>(34.48)  |
|   |  | Env. performance gradient x post                  | 6.056<br>(5.792)           | 0.282<br>(1.380)           |
|   |  | Env. perf. grdt. x post x Af/As/Am                | 1.189<br>(2.010)           | 0.147<br>(0.377)           |
|   |  | Institution efficiency gradient                   | -9.269<br>(21.72)          | -6.563<br>(5.064)          |
|   |  | Institution efficiency gradient x Af/As/Am        | <b>-4.115**</b><br>(1.978) | -0.0585<br>(0.563)         |
|   |  | Institution efficiency gradient x post            | 8.403<br>(22.78)           | 4.235<br>(6.595)           |
|   |  | Institution efficiency gradient x post x Af/As/Am | 0.216<br>(1.788)           | 0.120<br>(1.172)           |
|   |  | Env. trade barriers gradient                      | -17.87<br>(18.37)          | -4.388<br>(7.56)           |
|   |  | Env. trade barriers gradient x Af/As/Am           | <b>46.09**</b><br>(20.97)  | -2.135<br>(4.009)          |
|   |  | Env. trade barriers gradient x post               | -2.774<br>(3.802)          | 0.266<br>(1.110)           |
|   |  | Env. trade barriers grdt. x post x Af/As/Am       | (8.489)                    | (0.337)                    |
|   |  | GDP/capita gradient                               | <b>-0.700*</b><br>(0.4318) | 1.737<br>(2.327)           |
| Observations                                |  | 321   | 1,806                      | 680                        |
| Number of ij                                |  | 106   | 345                        | 178                        |
| Time dummy                                  |  | YES   | YES                        | YES                        |
| Country and time dummies                    |  | YES   | YES                        | YES                        |
| Bilateral FE                                |  | YES   | YES                        | YES                        |
| Dependent variable                          |  | In Imports  | In Imports                 | In Imports                 |
| Robust standard errors in parentheses       |  |   |                            |                            |
| *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1              |  |   |                            |                            |

Table 14: Developing-EU BACI

| ppml EU 10-15                                   |                     | ppml EU 10-15  |                      |
|---|---------------------|--|----------------------|
| AGGREGATED ERG                                  |                     | DISAGGREGATED ERG  |                      |
| VARIABLES                                       | (2)                 | VARIABLES  | (2)                  |
| post  | -62.21<br>(196.3)   | post   | -174.6***<br>(66.12) |
| 10-15 dummy                                     | -37.44<br>(192.3)   | 10-15 dummy  | 176.0***<br>(88.22)  |
| Environmental reg. gradient                     | 240.9<br>(2.467)    | Env. performance gradient                                | -146.0<br>(148.3)    |
| post x 10-15                                    | 33.46<br>(292.8)    | Env. performance gradient x post                         | 21.4<br>(111.8)      |
| Environmental reg. gradient x post              | -38.7<br>(1.093)    | Env. perf. grdt. x post x 10-15                          | -14.07***<br>(4.03)  |
| Environmental reg. gradient x 10-15             | 25.84***<br>(12.72) | Institution efficiency gradient                          | 241.8<br>(226.7)     |
| Env. reg. grdt. x post x 10-15                  | -9.274*<br>(5.051)  | Institution efficiency gradient x post                   | 254.8***<br>(100.3)  |
| Total effect Environmental reg. gradient x post | -9.274              | Institution efficiency grdt. x post x 10-15              | 10.41**<br>(4.190)   |
| Percentage of zeros                             | 41                  | Env. trade barriers gradient                             | 10.46<br>(6.467)     |
| Observations                                    | 2,128               | Env. trade barriers gradient x 10-15                     | 4.583*<br>(2.734)    |
| Time dummy                                      | YES                 | Env. trade barriers grdt. x post x 10-15                 | -27.13***<br>(9.286) |
| Country and time dummy                          | YES                 |  |                      |
| Bilateral FE                                    | YES                 |  |                      |
| Dependent variable                              | Imports             |  |                      |
| df_m  |                     |  |                      |
| Robust standard errors in parentheses           |                     | Total effect Env. perf. grdt. x post x 10-15             |                      |
| *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1                  |                     | Total effect Institution efficiency grdt. x post x 10-15 |                      |
|   |                     | Total effect Env. trade barriers grdt. x post x 10-15    |                      |
|   |                     | Percentage of zeros                                      | 41                   |
|   |                     | Observations   | 2,128                |
|   |                     | Time dummy   | YES                  |
|   |                     | Country and time dummy                                   | YES                  |
|   |                     | Bilateral FE   | YES                  |
|   |                     | Dependent variable                                       | Imports              |
|   |                     | Robust standard errors in parentheses                    |                      |
|   |                     | *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1                           |                      |

Table 15: Pseudo poisson maximum likelihood EU 10-15

| ppml Developing-EU                                  |                     |                      |                      | ppml Developing-EU                                       |                     |                      |                      |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| VARIABLES   | Africa-EU           | Asia-EU              | America-EU           | VARIABLES  | Africa-EU           | Asia-EU              | America-EU           |
| post  | 129.6<br>(199.4)    | 1.543***<br>(0.453)  | 1.449***<br>(0.461)  | post   | -2.352<br>(2.237)   | -1.559<br>(1.198)    | 3.035***<br>(0.953)  |
| Africa/Asia/America - EU dummy                      | 14.69<br>(35.72)    | -2.122***<br>(0.331) | -5.360***<br>(0.728) | AI/As/Am dummy   | 1.277<br>(2.939)    | -1.492<br>(1.864)    | -7.160***<br>(2.395) |
| Environmental reg. gradient                         | 457.6<br>(798.3)    | 5.117*<br>(2.667)    | -0.768<br>(2.481)    | post x AI/As/Am  | 1.166<br>(2.366)    | 0.952<br>(1.171)     | 0.469<br>(1.051)     |
| post x AI/As/Am - EU                                | -13.74<br>(34.77)   | -0.160<br>(0.562)    | 0.734<br>(0.528)     | Env. performance gradient                                | -0.507<br>(1.832)   | 0.487<br>(2.355)     | 9.840***<br>(4.556)  |
| Environmental reg. gradient x post                  | -460.8<br>(784.0)   | 8.809**<br>(3.479)   | -0.532<br>(0.931)    | Env. performance gradient x AI/As/Am                     | 2.114<br>(1.746)    | 1.597**<br>(0.913)   | -2.465<br>(1.589)    |
| Environmental reg. gradient x AI/As/Am - EU         | -10.55*<br>(5.995)  | -5.607***<br>(1.971) | 8.021**<br>(3.349)   | Env. performance gradient x post                         | 3.790***<br>(1.332) | -0.543**<br>(0.272)  | 4.212*<br>(2.554)    |
| Env. reg. grdt. x post x AI/As/Am - EU              | -2.245<br>(6.292)   | -0.542<br>(1.071)    | -11.00**<br>(3.349)  | Env. perf. grdt. x post x AI/As/Am                       | -3.400**<br>(1.621) | 0.546<br>(0.817)     | -4.795*<br>(2.908)   |
| GDP/capita gradient                                 | -6.718**<br>(2.635) | -2.164<br>(1.749)    | 1.350<br>(1.918)     | Institution efficiency gradient                          | -2.775<br>(2.465)   | -4.607***<br>(1.849) | 7.392<br>(5.554)     |
| Total effect Env. reg. grdt. x post x AI/As/Am - EU | 0                   | 0                    | -11.00               | Institution efficiency gradient x AI/As/Am               | -2.961<br>(2.042)   | -2.635<br>(1.847)    | 1.213<br>(1.385)     |
|   |                     |                      |                      | Institution efficiency gradient x post                   | -0.546<br>(1.724)   | 1.907***<br>(0.649)  | -2.961*<br>(1.639)   |
| Percentage of zeros                                 | 78                  | 46                   | 89                   | Institution efficiency grdt. x post x AI/As/Am           | 1.265<br>(1.710)    | -1.574<br>(1.142)    | -0.251<br>(2.182)    |
| Observations  | 2640                | 3416                 | 5520                 | Env. trade barriers gradient                             | 0.271<br>(1.658)    | 0.166<br>(0.696)     | -1.589**<br>(0.807)  |
| Time dummy  | YES                 | YES                  | YES                  | Env. trade barriers gradient x AI/As/Am                  | 0.704<br>(1.743)    | -0.745*<br>(0.402)   | 2.177<br>(1.612)     |
| Country dummy                                       | YES                 | YES                  | NO                   | Env. trade barriers gradient x post                      | -0.337<br>(0.553)   | 0.104<br>(0.0769)    | 0.646<br>(0.628)     |
| Country and time dummy                              | YES                 | YES                  | YES                  | Env. trade barriers grdt. x post x AI/As/Am              | 0.743<br>(1.308)    | 2.136**<br>(0.971)   | -0.794<br>(2.417)    |
| Bilateral FE  | Imports             | Imports              | Imports              | GDP/capita gradient                                      | -2.274<br>(2.212)   | -3.151<br>(1.969)    | 2.834<br>(1.754)     |
| Robust standard errors in parentheses               |                     |                      |                      | Total effect Env. perf. grdt. x post x AI/As/Am          | -3.4                | 0                    | -4.795               |
| *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1                      |                     |                      |                      | Total effect Env. trade barriers grdt. x post x AI/As/Am | 0                   | 2.136                | 0                    |
|   |                     |                      |                      | Percentage of zeros                                      | 78                  | 46                   | 89                   |
|   |                     |                      |                      | Observations   | 2640                | 3416                 | 5520                 |
|   |                     |                      |                      | Time dummy   | YES                 | YES                  | YES                  |
|   |                     |                      |                      | Country dummy  | YES                 | YES                  | YES                  |
|   |                     |                      |                      | Country and time dummy                                   | NO                  | NO                   | NO                   |
|   |                     |                      |                      | Bilateral FE   | YES                 | YES                  | YES                  |
|   |                     |                      |                      | Dependent variable                                       | Imports             | Imports              | Imports              |
|   |                     |                      |                      | Robust standard errors in parentheses                    |                     |                      |                      |
|   |                     |                      |                      | *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1                           |                     |                      |                      |

Table 16: Pseudo poisson maximum likelihood by regions